

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SNM-02
DEAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /057 W
-----191307Z 007003 /53

O R 191133Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1288
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, SNAR
SUBJECT: GENERAL KRIANGSAK MAKES PUBLIC ATTACK ON U.S. POLICIES

SUMMARY: GENERAL KRIANGSAK, CHAMANAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROBABLY MOST INFLUENTIAL
THAI MILITARY FIGURE, IN A SPEECH BEFORE A WELL-ATTENDED JOINT
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON APRIL 19, OSTENSIBLY ON THE
SUBJECT OF SECURITY IN THAILAND, USED THE OCCASION TO LAUNCH
INTO A PETULANT AND DIRECT ATTACK ON U.S. POLICIES AND ATTITUDES
TOWARD THAILAND, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO OUR NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION PROGRAM. THE PREPARED TEXT FROM WHICH KRIANGSAK
READ CONSTITUTED A REPLAY OF HOW SECURITY IN THAILAND HAD
IMPROVED AFTER THE OCT 6 TAKEOVER TO THE POINT THAT INVESTORS
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SHOULD BE CONFIDENT IN THE FUTURE OF THAILAND. LATTER PART OF
SPEECH CONTAINS REMARKS AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE U.S.,
AND KRIANGSAK SEEMED TO BE VENTING HIS FRUSTRATIONS OVER
CERTAIN ACTIONS TAKEN AND STATEMENTS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL
AMERICANS. HE LISTED SOME DOZEN IRRITANTS THAT WERE BOTHERING HIM.
EMBASSY WILL TRANSMIT TEXT IN SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. AT A JOINT CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE MEETING AT THE ORIENTAL HOTEL APRIL 19, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL, ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS INCLUDING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND A LARGE PRESS CORPS ON THE SUBJECT OF "SECURITY IN THAILAND". KRIANGSAK'S PREPARED TEXT DEALT WITH THE SUBJECT LISTED ON THE PROGRAM AS HE OUTLINED THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE THANIN GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH AND IMPROVE THAILAND'S SECURITY. HE RECALLED THE INSTABILITY PROBLEMS OF PREVIOUS THAI GOVERNMENTS AS EMANATING FROM INTRA-PARTY RIVALRIES AND COMPETITION AND THE ATTEMPT BY THE COMMUNISTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTANT CONFUSION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT ATTRACTIVE TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BUILD STABILITY AND IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT. THERE WAS NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN THIS PART OF THE SPEECH, WHICH WAS A WELL ORGANIZED EFFORT TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

2. WHEN IT APPEARED THAT ALL THE PERTINENT SUBJECTS RELATING TO THAILAND'S SECURITY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, KRIANGSAK BEGAN WHAT AMOUNTED TO A SECOND SPEECH. HE COMMENDED THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS LONG FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS. HE NOTED THAT THE SINCERITY OF THE AMERICAN EFFORT WAS MANIFESTED BY THE SELECTION OF CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF TO CHAIR THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL. KRIANGSAK THEN LAUNCHED INTO A DIRECT, SOMETIMES SARCASTIC, OFTEN PEULANT ATTACK ON U.S. POLICIES AND ATTITUDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWARD THE JOINT NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS. USING CONTINUOUSLY THE PHRASE "AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS", KRIANGSAK FAULTED THEM FOR BEING INSTANT EXPERTS WHO BELIEVE WHAT THEY HEAR WITHOUT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION; "AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS" PUT TOO MUCH RELIANCE IN COMPUTERS, LOOKING AT STATISTICS, AND NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THESE MEAN. "AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS" ARE LOOKING FOR RESULTS IN THE NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN BUT FORGET ABOUT 200 MILLION PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH THEIR SURVIVAL IN THE ASEAN.

3. HE SAID THE U.S. SHOULD ANALYZE AND REASSESS ITS POLICIES AND DETERMINE HOW MUCH IT IS ACHIEVING FOR THE MONEY SPENT. THE U.S. OUGHT TO ANALYZE WHY IT IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN FULL AND SINCERE COOPERATION FROM BURMA, IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD.

4. HE THEN TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE OPIUM GROWN IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE IS PRODUCED UNDER CONTROL OF THE COMMUNISTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE DESCRIBED THE CON-

FLICT BETWEEN THAI COUNTER-INSURGENCY AND ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. WHEN THE RTG ACTS TO SUPPRESS THE NARCOTICS TRADE, IT PUSHES THE HILLTRIBES PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BEEN GROWING OPIUM FOR YEARS, INTO COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

5. TURNING SARCASTIC, KRIANGSAK NOTED THAT OPIUM TRADING HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, "LONG BEFORE THE UNITED STATES WAS A COUNTRY". CONTINUING IN THAT VEIN, HE SAID THAT WHERE THERE ARE MARKETS, THERE WILL BE TRADE. IT IS AN IMMENSE, COMPLEX PROBLEM, AND GETTING AT THE SOURCE OF SUPPLY IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF IT. ONE HAS TO SOLVE THE CONSUMER PROBLEM AS WELL. HE THEN DREW SOME LAUGHTER BY NOTING THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE TOO MUCH SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING THE MAFIA.

6. THE UNITED STATES, SAID KRIANGSAK, SHOULD NOT CRITICIZE CORRUPTION IN THAILAND ONLY. IT SHOULD LOOK INTO COR-
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RUPTION OF OTHER COUNTRIES' OFFICIALS CIRCLES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE NARCOTICS TRADE. (IN HIS PREPARED TEXT HE REFERRED TO CORRUPTION IN THE U.S., BUT SOFTENED THIS POINT WHEN HE DELIVERED IT.)

7. TAKING A MORE GENERAL TACK, KRIANGSAK ASSERTED THAT THE UNITED STATES NEEDS ALL THE FRIENDS IT CAN GET; THAT ONLY FEW COUNTRIES REMAIN THAT SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND THE SUPPRESSION OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. THE U.S. CANNOT SIT IN JUDGMENT OF OTHERS. IT HAS ITS FAULTS, TOO. BUT, HE SAID, THE U.S. HAS "NOBLE GOALS" AND SO DOES THAILAND. AMERICA'S GOALS IN VIET-NAM WERE "MORALLY CORRECT", BUT AMERICA IS HESITANT NOW BECAUSE

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

THE U.S. GOT ITS FINGERS BURNED IN VIET-NAM, AND THIS CAUSES OTHER COUNTRIES TO DOUBT AMERICA'S CONSTANCY. KRIANGSAK CLAIMED THAILAND WANTED AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP, BUT "WE FEEL WE SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON HER TOO MUCH". THAILAND MUST, HE ADDED, RELY ON ITSELF AND ASEAN AND MUST DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPLIES. IF THAILAND IS ATTACKED, HE SAID, WE ARE NOT SURE THE U.S. WOULD COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE.

8. HE ENDED HIS CRITICISM OF THE U.S. BY SAYING "STILL, WE CONSIDER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES A SPECIAL ONE" AND MOVED TO END HIS ADDRESS BY URGING THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THAILAND'S WELL BEING TO EXPRESS THAT INTEREST BY INVESTING IN THAILAND. THAILAND IS WHERE THE COMMUNISTS

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MUST BE STOPPED AND THAILAND WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO STOP THEM.

9. WHEN HE SAT DOWN, KRIANGSAK ASKED THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR "DO YOU THINK MY FRIEND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE ANGRY?" THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE ANSWERED "HE CERTAINLY WILL."

10. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE TELEPHONED KRIANGSAK AFTER THE LUNCH TO SUGGEST THAT THEY MEET TO DISCUSS THE POINTS RAISED IN THE SPEECH. KRIANGSAK IMMEDIATELY OFFERED TO COME TO THE EMBASSY AND A MEETING WAS SET FOR THREE P. M. TOMORROW. HE ASKED "ARE YOU ANNOYED WITH ME?". THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED: "NO, JUST PUZZLED."

11. WE EXPECT TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE SOURCE OF KRIANGSAK'S APPARENT IRRITATION AFTER TOMORROW'S MEETING.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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